

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 25, 2005

Jean M. Shepard, Director
San Diego County
Health and Human Services Agency
1700 Pacific Highway, Room 207
San Diego, California 92101

Dear Ms. Shepard:

The purpose of this letter is to approve San Diego County's System Improvement Plan (SIP) submitted to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) as part of the California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR).

My staff has conducted an analysis of San Diego's Quarterly County Data Reports, Self Assessment and SIP. At this time, we concur with the direction and the overall strategies for improvement. We also concur with the county's prioritization of activities for this upcoming SIP period.

On a quarterly basis, San Diego County will be contacted by your Children's Services Operations Bureau consultant to obtain updates on the status of your progress to implement program change. Additionally, Operations Bureau staff will continue to utilize Quarterly County Data Reports to monitor your county's performance on all of the outcome indicators. In the event that a county's Quarterly County Data Report identifies a negative data trend or insufficient progress in any of the outcome indicators, including those not contained within the SIP, the CDSS will contact the county to request an amendment be submitted to the SIP.

The CDSS recognizes that the implementation of a new statewide oversight system is both exciting and challenging. The CDSS would also like to reiterate the expectation that the activities contained within the county SIP's will assist the State in meeting its federal Program Improvement Plan goals. The CDSS will also be promulgating regulations for the C-CFSR within the upcoming year. We would like to express our appreciation for San Diego County's commitment to the C-CFSR and to continuously improving outcomes for the children and families we serve.

If you have any further questions about this information, please contact me at (916) 657-2614 or you can call Wesley A. Beers, Chief, Operations and Evaluation Branch at (916) 651-8111.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

c: Joan Zinser, Interim Director, Child Welfare Services